

**MINUTES OF THE
MUNICIPAL LIGHT BOARD MEETING
January 8, 2019**

PURSUANT TO notice given, the Merrimac Municipal Light Board (“Board”) met in the Municipal Light Department’s (“MLD” or “Department”) Administration Building, 10 W Main Street, at 4 PM.

PRESENT

Those present included Chairman Larry Fisher, Vice Chair Norman Denault, Secretary Paula Hamel, and MLD’s General Manager Francisco Frias. Julie Wisnewski and Meghan Marlowe, from “We Are Pentucket Committee”, were also present for the second item of the Board Meeting agenda.

MEETING START

A motion was made and accepted to bring the meeting to order at 4 PM.

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Commissioners voted 3-0 to accept the December 11, 2018 Board Meeting Minutes as written.

GENERAL MANAGER’S ITEMS

Flyer insert request by “We are Pentucket” Committee:

Julie Wisnewski and Meghan Marlowe, from “We Are Pentucket” Committee, came to the meeting to ask the MLB if it was possible to insert a flyer in our bills going out in the spring. They are trying to reach those in town that are not part of social media to provide factual information mainly on how a new middle school and high school would impact their taxes. This information pertains to the Pentucket Regional School District, which includes Groveland, Merrimac and West Newbury. After some discussion, about what this committee is trying to accomplish, the General Manager (“Manager”) said that currently we only allow inserts from other town departments and the Board would need to make a decision whether or not to allow this group to have a flyer in our bills. The commissioners would like to see the information they are planning to have on the flyer and also verify a few other things before approving the request. The Manager also talked about the logistics and how the process would unfold if the Board approves the request. A sample flyer will be sent to the Manager for review and then the determination will be made once the Department has all the information it needs.

November 2018 Financial Information:

The Manager asked the Board if there were any questions regarding the financial information for the month of November 2018. The Department saw a total Net Loss of \$42,071.00, compared to a forecasted Net Loss of \$48,495.00. A contributing factor to lower than expected net income was the downed stock market which affected the income of the investment funds. Also enclosed was the spreadsheet for November’s ending balances.

4th Quarter 2018 Reliability Report:

The Manager went over the 4th Quarter 2018 Reliability Report (Attached with Minutes). During the last quarter of the year, there were 8 outages compared to 11 outages during the same period in 2017. For the entire year, there were 26 outages and the System Average Interruption Duration Index (SAIDI) was 10.7

minutes. The Manager mentioned that this was a difficult year for our reliability numbers, considering the March storms and how windy it has been. With all of that, the Department has been able to keep outages to a minimum and continues working on improving the system to make it more reliable.

Firstlight Hydro Project Update:

The Manager informed the Board that Energy New England (“ENE”) in recent talks with the hydro project’s owner could not reach an agreement on the cost per MWh for the project. Due to market volatility, the cost came in at around \$56/MWh instead of the \$52/MWh originally discussed. They will wait for the market to settle and continue negotiations. The Manager will keep the Board informed.

Merrimac Veterans Monument Committee Petition:

Carol Traynor, Chair of the Merrimac Veterans Monument Committee, sent a petition to the Board (Attached with Minutes) asking for the Light Department to donate the labor and materials to install lighting at the veterans monument that will be built on Church Street. The scope of work would include purchasing and installing PBC piping, in addition to the wire for the small electrical service. Carol Traynor told the Manager that somebody else is doing the trenching for the piping. Both the Manager and the Board agreed to donate this work. A motion was made and accepted to make this official.

Apprentice Lineman Position Update:

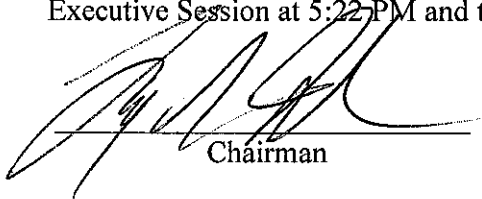
The Manager informed the Board that we received about 80 resumes for the apprentice line position and he narrowed it down to about 5 candidates. After interviewing the top candidates, he decided to make a job offer to the most qualified candidate. His name is Cody Bernard from Danvers, MA. He attended Southeast Lineman Training Center in Georgia and has a CDL-A license. He will be evaluated by the NEPPA Apprentice Program coordinator to determine on which level he will be at when he is sent to Apprentice Line School. Response time has been discussed with him and he is willing to do whatever is necessary to comply with this job requirement. He is currently about 30 minutes away which is what the requirement is for the position.

Other items not available at the time of posting:

Board Meeting Start Time:

Commissioner Hamel proposed starting the monthly Board meetings at 3:30 PM instead of 4 PM. The rest of the commissioners were in agreement with the proposal and a motion was made and accepted to change the start time of future meetings to 3:30 PM.

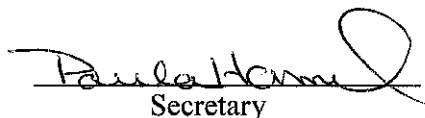
Executive Session: The Board voted to go into Executive Session at 5:15 PM to approve the Executive Board Meeting minutes of October 15, November 2, and December 11, 2018. Board voted to come out of Executive Session at 5:22 PM and the public meeting was closed at 5:24 PM.



Chairman



Vice Chair



Secretary